CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

     1.   A method of transporting information in a telecommunications network having a plurality of
5 network elements, the method comprising the acts of:
        (a)   transporting a first frame from a first network element;
        (b)   receiving said first frame in a second network element, in the second network
10   element:
        (i)   relocating information from a first set of byte locations of said first frame to a second set of byte locations of another frame;
15   (ii) transporting said another frame to a third network element;
        (c)   receiving said another frame in said third network element.

20   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said first frame and said another frame are SONET frames.

     3.   The method claim 2 wherein said first set of byte locations is in an overhead section of a SONET
25 frame.

     4.   The method of claim 2 wherein said second set of byte locations is in an overhead section of a SONET frame.
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     5.   The method of claim 3 wherein said overhead section is a section overhead.

     6.   The method of claim 4 wherein said overhead
35 section is a line overhead.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said first set of byte locations consists of data communications channels in said section overhead.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said second set of byte locations consists of data communications channels in said line overhead.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein said information is network management information.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said network management information is in accordance with a protocol selected from a group consisting of Open Systems Interconnection Standard (OSI) and Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP).

11. A computer useable medium comprising:
  computer readable instructions for receiving a first SONET frame;
  computer readable instructions for moving information from a first set of byte locations of said first SONET frame to a second set of byte locations of a second SONET frame; and
  computer readable instructions for transmitting said second SONET frame.

12. The computer useable medium of claim 11 wherein said first set of byte locations consists of data communications channels in a section overhead.

13. The computer useable medium of claim 11 wherein said second set of byte locations consists of data communications channels in a line overhead.

14. A method of transporting information in a SONET network comprising the acts of:

(a) transporting a first SONET frame from a first
network element to a second network element;

(b) in the second network element:

(i) moving a network management information

5   from a section overhead of said first SONET
frame to a line overhead of a second SONET
frame;

(ii) transporting said second SONET frame to
a third network element.

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15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the
acts of:

(c) in the third network element:

(i) moving said network management

15   information from the line overhead of said
second SONET frame to a section overhead of a
third SONET frame;

(ii) transporting said third SONET frame to a
fourth network element.

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16. The method of claim 14 further comprising the
acts of:

(c) in the third network element:

(i) moving said network management

25   information from the line overhead of said
second SONET frame to a line overhead of a
third SONET frame;

(ii) transporting said third SONET frame to a
fourth network element.

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